

JANUARY 25, 1817.

Read twice and committed to the committee of the whole House
on the bill "to provide for the redemption of the public debt."

A Bill

*Authorizing the deposit of the papers of foreign vessels, with the
Consul of their respective nations.*

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That*
3 the register, or other document in lieu thereof, together with
4 the clearance and other papers, granted by the officers
5 of the customs to any foreign ship or vessel, at her de-
6 parture from the port or place from which she may have
7 arrived, shall, previous to entry in any port of the United States,
8 be produced to the collector with whom such entry is to be
9 made. And it shall be the duty of the master or commander,
10 within forty-eight hours after such entry, to deposit the said
11 papers with the consul, or vice-consul of the nation to which
12 the vessel belongs, and to deliver to the collector the certificate
13 of such consul, or vice-consul, that the said papers have been

14 so deposited; and any master or commander as aforesaid, who
15 shall fail to comply with this regulation, shall, upon conviction
16 thereof in any court of competent jurisdiction, be fined in a
17 sum not less than _____ dollars, nor
18 exceeding _____ dollars: *Provided, That*
19 this act shall not extend to the vessels of foreign nations in
20 whose ports American consuls are not permitted to have the
21 custody and possession of the register and other papers of ves-
22 sels entering the ports of such nation, according to the provi-
23 sions of the second section of the act supplementary to the act
24 "concerning consuls and vice-consuls, and for the further pro-
25 tection of American seamen," passed the twenty-eighth of Fe-
26 bruary, one thousand eight hundred and three.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall not be law-
ful for any foreign consul to deliver to the master or command-
er of any foreign vessel the register and other papers deposited
with him pursuant to the provisions of this act, until such mas-
ter or commander shall produce to him a clearance in due
form from the collector of the port, where such vessel has been
entered; and any consul offending against the provisions of
this act, shall, upon conviction thereof before the supreme
court of the United States, be fined at the discretion of the
court in a sum not less than _____ dollars,
nor exceeding _____ dollars.